

Obstetrician-Gynecologist

Delivers babies and treats everything from fertility to cancer of the reproductive organs. Five years of residency, surgery, and babies at 3 a.m.

TYPICAL PAY

\$340,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$250k to \$500k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

11 to 13 years

after high school

DEMAND

Very high

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

Yes

regulated job

WHERE YOU WORK

Labour and delivery units, operating rooms, hospital clinics,...

How you get there

- 1 High school** Grades 11 and 12
Top marks in biology, chemistry, math and English. You need a very high average for a science undergrad.
- 2 Bachelor's degree** 3 to 4 years
Any major works. Keep a GPA (grade point average) above 3.8, volunteer, do research. Write the MCAT (medical school admission test).
- 3 Medical school, the MD (doctor of medicine)** 3 to 4 years
Acceptance rates are 5% to 15%. Classes, then clinical rotations. You will deliver your first baby as a student.
- 4 Obstetrics and gynecology residency** 5 years
Matched through CaRMS (the residency matching service). Labour and delivery, caesarean sections, gynecologic surgery, fertility, cancer and ultrasound.
- 5 Certification and licence** End of residency
Pass the Royal College exam to become FRCSC (Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of Canada), then register with your provincial College of Physicians and Surgeons.

Pros and cons

- + You are there for the happiest moment of most people's lives
- + Mix of surgery, medicine and long-term relationships
- + High income and strong demand in every province
- Babies come at night, on weekends and on holidays
- When a birth goes wrong it is devastating and often ends in a lawsuit
- Highest malpractice fees of any specialty

Good to know

Roughly 350,000 births a year

Roughly 350,000 babies are born in Canada every year, almost all in hospitals. Ob-gyns attend the majority, with family doctors and midwives covering the rest.

Nearly 1 in 3 is a caesarean

Roughly 3 in 10 Canadian births are by caesarean section, up from about 1 in 5 in the 1990s. Every one of them is performed by an ob-gyn or a specially trained rural doctor.

Optional boosts

Maternal-fetal medicine. Gynecologic oncology. Reproductive endocrinology and infertility. Urogynecology.

Where these numbers come from

Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada

CIHI: A profile of physicians in Canada, 2024 (payments)

CIHI: National Physician Database, payments by specialty, 2023 to 2024 (data tables)

CaRMS: the residency match

Numbers checked September 2026. Pay figures are typical full-time annual amounts in Canadian dollars, based on Government of Canada Job Bank wage data and published salary grids. They vary by province, employer and experience. Tuition is for domestic students. Sources, links and the click-through version: <https://career.help/ca/careers/obstetrician-gynecologist>



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